

Wisconsin's Early Childhood Advisory Council

Purpose, Process and Structure

ECAC Website:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ecac/default.htm>

Background:

The Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was established by Executive Order in November 2008 under the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, which required a State Council to be created that would build upon the existing state wide early childhood programs and services. The ECAC builds upon the work of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP), the Children's Trust Fund Board, Partners for Wisconsin Economic Success and the Birth to Three Interagency Coordinating Council.

Vision:

Every child will be healthy, nurtured, safe and successful.

Mission:

The mission of the Council is to help ensure that all children and families in Wisconsin have access to high quality early childhood programs and services.

Responsibilities of the Council:

- Conducting a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs;
- Identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services;
- Developing recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations; and
- Developing recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators.

Membership:

Members of the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) are appointed by the Governor as per federal requirements and executive order. The Governor's appointed Co-Chairs are the Department of Children and Families Secretary and Department of Public Instruction State Superintendent.

Members include key leaders in early learning and care, health, child welfare and mental health, as well as state agencies, advocacy organizations, foundations, businesses, higher education and others involved in the provision of services to young children and their families.

Accountability:

The Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) annually reports to the Governor on its progress and achievements and identifies future work.

Steering Committee/ Cross Department Staff Team

In 2010, the ECAC has appointed a Steering Committee, co-chaired by Council members and comprised of additional Council members and agency staff, to advance the Council's work. The Steering Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Providing ongoing input to current and future funding opportunities
- Coordinating and advancing the work of the ECAC
- Guiding and coordinating the work of various early childhood stakeholder groups to ensure systemic approaches to Council priorities
- Reviewing and assessing all formal recommendations for consideration by the Council
- Finalizing Council meeting agendas
- Providing recommendations on the annual report to the Governor
- Coordinating meetings with project team chairs to ensure needed collaboration and consistency across various domains

The Steering Committee works closely with the assigned staff team and project teams to implement the work. This reflects a structure that replaces the prior Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners – WECCP Action Team while retaining the other structures of WECCP, including the list serve, website, videoconferences and coaches. In addition, the Committee attempts to connect other early childhood input groups with the appropriate Project Teams to ensure a comprehensive, quality system of early care and education for Wisconsin's youngest citizens.

Current Project Teams:

The work of the Council is carried out by Project Teams led by Council members and comprised of other stakeholders with knowledge and expertise in specific early childhood domains. These time-limited Teams are charged with achieving specific goals and objectives.

- **Home Visiting (to be integrated into the Family and Community Team)**
The Project Team on Home Visiting was established in November 2010 to provide advice and guidance on the federal application for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program under the Affordable Care Act. More specifically, this team is charged with ensuring that home visiting services are integrated into state, regional, and local early childhood systems, maximizing available resources and prioritizing outcome

measures. The work at the ECAC level will focus broadly on family/community/parent partnerships from prenatal to age 8.

- **Public-Private Partnerships-**
Develop a public-private infrastructure model that aligns and leverages state, regional, and local resources, and engages the business, private, and philanthropic sectors as partners to improve early childhood outcomes.
- **Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System**
Create a longitudinal data system for planning and decision-making to ensure that outcomes are measured and evaluated for early childhood success.
- **Healthy Children- Screening and Assessment**
Create a comprehensive screening and assessment system to identify children's individual developmental needs and to facilitate referrals to appropriate services.
- **Professional Development**
Develop a coordinated statewide, early childhood professional development system, comprised of the multi-faceted programs and people focused on improving child and family outcomes.

*This document on the Purpose, Process and Structure of the WI Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council was modeled after the State of Illinois' own Purpose, Process and Structure document outlining their own Early Learning Council and sub-committees.

Working Structure 2011 - 2012

Wisconsin State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

Governor appointed Co-Chairs: DCF Secretary and DPI State Superintendent
Members appointed by the Governor as per federal requirements and executive order

Steering Committee

Previous ad hoc committee co-chairs and department representatives/staff.

Responsible to:

- Provide ongoing input to grant application
- Coordinate and advance the work of the ECAC
- Work with and through other input groups to guide and coordinate collection of assessment information or reports
- Provide recommendations to the ECAC for inclusion in the 2011 report to the Governor.

Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners

Website, listserv, video conferences, and Regional Coaches via braided funding.

Regional Action Teams

Council members with Regional structures may add new members to Regional Teams to assure representation on the regional level. Teams provide regional coordination, as well as input and focus at the regional and local levels

Committees/ project teams are ad hoc and created to address existing priorities.

Committees/ project teams will have appointed chairs or co-chairs. The chairs will report to the ECAC Steering Committee.

ECAC members participate directly and/or recommend representatives.

Others may be invited to participate in committees/ teams as appropriate

EC/LDS Data
Cross- Department
Project Team

Public Private
Partnerships

Healthy Children
Screening and
Assessment

Family and
Community
Partnerships

Professional Development
Initiative/ Higher Education

Public Input
Video and Other Input Process

Input Groups

Key State Councils, Boards, etc.

Partnership for Wisconsin's
Economic Success (PWES)

Children's Trust Fund /Celebrate
Children Foundation Boards

Project Launch: Milwaukee and
Red Cliff

Birth to 3 Interagency
Coordinating Council (DHS)

PreK- 16 Leadership Council

State Superintendent's Council
on 4K & Community Approaches

WI Head Start Collaboration
Office Advisory Committee

YoungStar Consortium

Maternal Child Health Advisory
Committee (DHS)

DPI Special Education Council

DCF Advisory Council on Child
Welfare

Early Learning Coalition

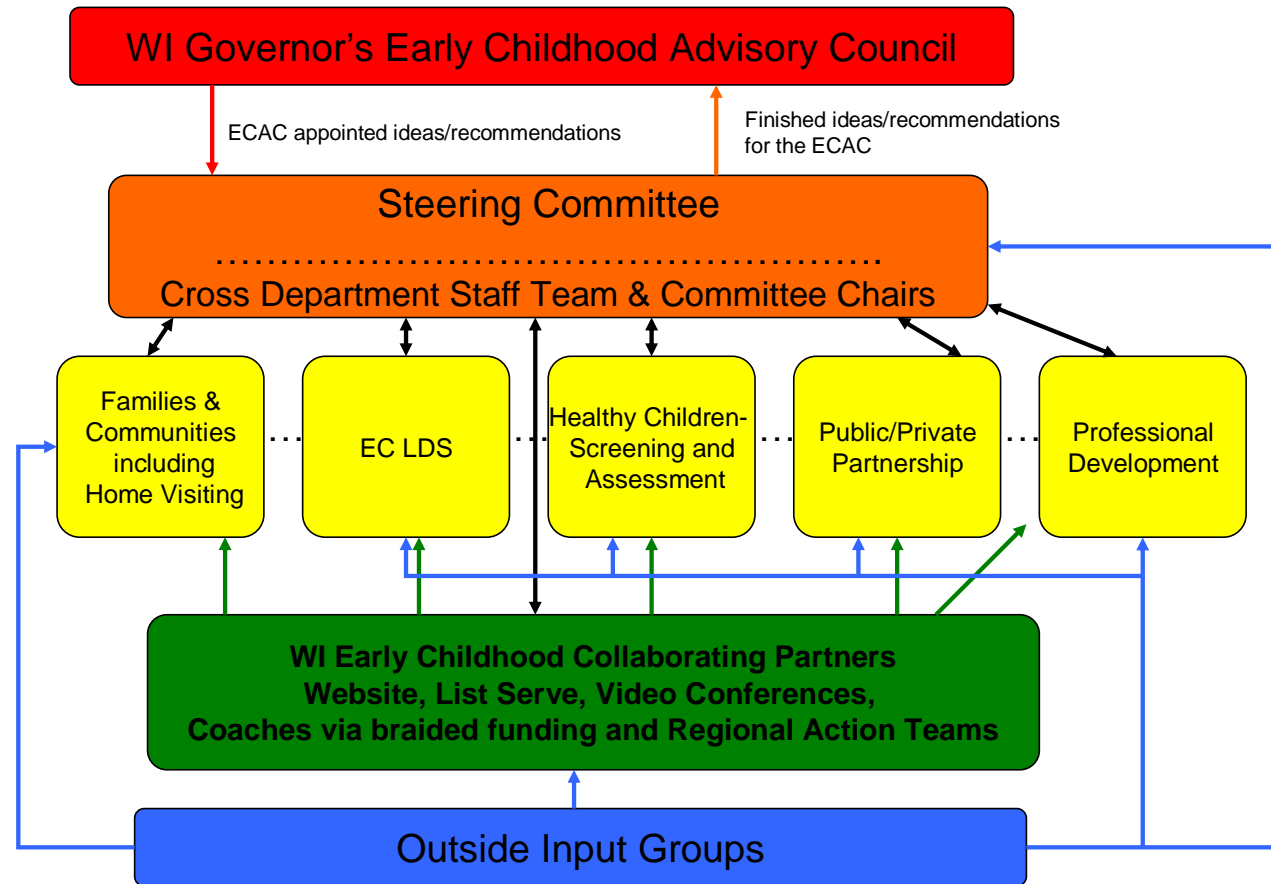
DHS Minority Health Council

Poverty Matters Planning Team

Liaison: Wisconsin Head Start Collaboration Office Director whose role is facilitating the alignment of federal requirements, Council, Staff team, and Committee assignments

Staff: ECAC lead staff is housed in DCF. DPI and DHS provide staff to assist the Council and Steering Committee.

WI Structure for Early Learning and Development



*Previous WI Early Childhood Collaborating Partners Action Team has been folded into this revised committee structure.